

I have recently become aware of a petition submitted to the FCC by the National Association of Broadcasters asking that the FCC limit certain satellite radio channels, specifically those designed to disseminate traffic and weather information in major metropolitan areas of the country. The petition to which I refer is numbered 04-160.

As a person who makes a living by driving on the nation's highways I derive an enormous amount of useful information from these satellite channels, much more than I ever did from broadcast radio. Broadcast stations provide limited information primarily during morning and afternoon "drive times", sporadically during midday and never during the evening or overnight. Invariably, when a broadcast station does provide traffic information it is usually about conditions on the opposite side of the city from where I am and doesn't address the backup in which I am sitting until much later (usually when I have already made it through the jam).

I pay for satellite radio service so I can get the information I need and want without having it subjected to the time limits broadcasters place on their traffic and weather reports. I would much rather pay satellite radio for in-depth and comprehensive traffic and weather reports than listen to the advertisements that pay for broadcast reports.

If the broadcasters would spend more time ascertaining the types of programs their listeners demand they might be able to compete with satellite radio. The mere existence of satellite radio, its program content and its success in attracting subscribers highlights a void that broadcast radio was and remains unable to meet.

I respectfully urge the FCC to reject the petition 04-160 and to support satellite radio's ability to provide the kind of programming that I want and deserve.